Hi Everyone,

I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather and coping with all the wildfires raging through the country at the moment– please stay safe. It’s really interesting time of year for CLMA as we approach the end of the year and find out what the future holds in terms of funding.

I was happy to find out recently that the coordinator’s position will be funded again for another year and a half through the Territory Natural Resource Management Board, and that our CFoC application was also successful!! This project is worth about $400,000 over 2 years and will extend the EMU process and associated on-ground works. It will also provide many subsidised Soil Conservation and Machinery workshops, which will be a great opportunity for yourselves and your staff to get your tickets for machinery– and fix your problem areas at the same time!

You may have recently received a letter from Steve and myself about the upcoming AGM and the opportunity to become members of the CLMA Committee. It is vital that we have all our positions filled so CLMA can remain as an association and continue all the great work you’ve done over the years. If we can’t get a full committee together we may not be able to run, despite the amount of funding coming in. The role of the committee is to provide overarching authority and guidance over the running of CLMA and represent the interests of pastoralists in the region.

Please give us a call if you are interested in being on the Committee or come along to our AGM scheduled for the 28th of October. I will send out an email with the information closer to the date.

CLMA puts a much needed positive light on pastoralism in this region and provides a unique grass-roots service to the pastoral sector. CLMA members have done so much great work already, let’s keep the momentum going and prove that pastoralism can exist in a sustainable way!

Cheers, Glenis
Great news!! We have just received confirmation that our Caring For our Country funding application was successful. The Federal Government is offering CLMA substantial funding over 2 years to continue E.M.U and various on-ground works.

The project will build the capacity of land managers to be able to plan and execute soil conservation and rehabilitation works using best-practice methods. It will continue to use the EMU process as a catchment management planning tool but will provide the essential next step in addressing land condition issues through on-ground works on pastoral properties. Nationally accredited machinery training using on-farm equipment will be tailored to address erosion and soil loss to restore landscape condition. Pastoralists will also be able to address landscape scale conservation through various management actions including weed control, rehabilitation, relocation of water points and monitoring.

What will be on offer:

- EMU process— planning and support
- Soil conservation & machinery courses
- Money for weed control (emerging weeds and WONS), fencing, relocation of water points, revegetation and other prioritised actions
- Monitoring EMU “ecojunction” sites

We will send more information out when the project commences

If you would like to get started ASAP there is a chance through the Territory Natural Resource Management’s Local Grants round.

With funding under the Australian Government’s Caring for Our Country (CfOC) initiative, Territory NRM is again offering a local grants program to address CfOC priority targets in the Northern Territory. Grants are being made available to support community groups, landholders and other organisations to plan and implement actions protecting native biodiversity, through reducing critical threats and improving management practices.

Under the Local Grants program, funding of up to $20,000 will be available to local groups for projects that address the identified targets.

Applications will be accepted from 1 September 2011 and closes 14th October 2011.

Eligible activities include:

Feral animal control, weed control, rehabilitation, fencing and site protection, soil conservation

Let us know if you are interested and we will help out or go to [www.territorynrm.org.au](http://www.territorynrm.org.au),
The Queensland government is investigating a gas field west of Brisbane after traces of cancer-causing chemicals were discovered at five Arrow Energy bores at Tipton West and Daandine gas fields near Dalby. The find is the latest of a string of contaminations in Queensland’s CSG industry.

Benzene, toluene and xylene (commonly known as BTEX) were outlawed last October in Queensland for use in fracking (used in the CSG industry to split rock seams and extract methane) however they were discovered during routine tests of 14 bores used to monitor coal seam gas (CSG).

BTEX can be naturally occurring but are also found in a range of oil-based products. Arrow Energy said the shallow monitoring bores have no connection to gas production and the aquifer is not used for stock or domestic water. The Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management will study the bores to determine if the level of chemicals is naturally occurring or introduced by the company.

In November last year, the chemicals were found in three of Arrow Energy’s CSG wells at Moranbah in central Queensland. Cougar Energy’s pilot underground coal gasification plant near Kingaroy (pictured below) was also shut down by the state government after benzene and toluene were found at just 2 ppb in nearby bores. The level of the chemicals found at Arrow’s operations ranged between 2 and 16 parts per billion (ppb).

With the current interest for Coal Seam Gas in the Lake Eyre Basin, many pastoralists are concerned about the long-term impact on the environment and production if CSG mining is established in this region. In NSW and QLD regions where CSG industry has already established there have been reports of headaches, skin rashes, bleeding from the nose and ears, and people passing out since CSG drilling exploration began. These toxins are just as likely to affect the health of stock.

One Australian lobby group called GetUp! recently wrapped up a tour of affected communities in regional New South Wales and Queensland, finding that some residents have concerns about the health impacts of CSG mining.

Over 50,000 people signed a petition calling on the federal Labor government to stop coal seam gas (CSG) mining until its full impact is understood.

Nominate for CLMA committee

Positions include:

President  vice president North  vice president South  Treasurer  Secretary

We also have a general committee

Please give me a call if you would like to nominate for any of these positions
Carbon Farming news

The new Land Sector package is a part of the Clean Energy Future initiative, which complements and builds on the Australian Government’s existing natural resource management activities. Briefly, this new activity includes four new measures:

- **A Biodiversity Fund ($946.2m)** to help build connectivity, and resilience in the landscape by promoting biodiverse carbon plantings and revegetation, management of existing biodiverse carbon stores and managing pests in a connected landscape
- The establishment of a permanent, expert **Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Advisory Board ($4.4m)** to provide advice to ministers and parliament on the implementation of the land sector measures
- **A Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Planning for Climate Change ($43.9m)** measure to support regional planning for climate change
- **An Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund ($22.3m)** to support Indigenous participation in the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI).

Rural communities can also benefit from carbon farming through:

- **A Carbon Farming Initiative non-Kyoto Carbon Fund ($250m)** to purchase Carbon Farming Initiative credits
- **Carbon Farming Futures ($429m)** to help farmers and other landholders to benefit from carbon, and
- **A Carbon Farming Skills ($4.2m)** package to support green jobs and ensure that landholders have access to credible, high quality advice and carbon services.

Much of the activities supported under this package already fits with what CLMA members have already been doing over the years so stay tuned to see how you could be involved in the future.

Territory NRM Plan Launched

Territory NRM recently launched the [NT Integrated Natural Resource Management plan](#) which sets the agenda for natural resource management in the Territory for 2010-2015 and is the culmination of two years of work, research and cooperation by the Territory NRM community. CLMA contributed to this plan earlier in 2010 to ensure pastoral land use is included.

The new plan sets out a range of NRM programs under four key themes:

- Addressing threats
- Supporting ecologically sustainable development
- Managing our environmental assets
- Making it happen

These themes include Territory classics like ‘harnessing fire’, ‘controlling weeds’ and ‘reducing feral animal impacts’; a few new entries like ‘entering the conservation economy’ and ‘minimising ecological footprints’ as well as things integral to the mix like ‘building knowledge and capacity’ and ‘engaging the community’.

The NRM Plan will be used to guide investment from government and private funding sources, making it an important tool for securing the environmental future of the NT.
Cunningham Site and EMU monitoring

We have recently started a small project to revisit The ‘Cunningham’ monitoring sites, which were first established in the 1960’s and have been recorded over many years in hard-copy form (photographs and hand-written reports). This information is priceless and needs to be made digital to ensure its longevity and use in future monitoring of pastoral properties. The Cunningham sites will also be useful for E.M.U monitoring as they give an important insight into change over nearly 50 years.

For those of you who have done EMU, we can also establish monitoring sites within your “ecojunctions” under this project so if you don’t have time to do this yourselves, let us know if you’d like us to help out.

For this project we will:

- Scan old Cunningham monitoring photos and organize them into station folders
- Review and digitise existing monitoring site information
- Undertake field work on individual stations to take photographs of Cunningham sites and collect data (members and EMU participants get priority)
- Add reports of findings to station folders

We will be in touch about coming to your property and look forward to catching up

Feral Photo Competition

For all you photographers out there, here’s a chance to win a prize for snaps of feral animals in your area – especially the damage that they cause.

To help raise awareness about pest animals and illustrate the damage that is being done across the country by pest animals, the Invasive Animals CRC (IA CRC) is running it’s first-ever ‘Feral Photos’ photography competition. They are looking for your photos showing pest animals in their habitat, the damage caused by pest animals and also photos that exhibit the various control methods that are available.

The Invasive Animals CRC Natural Resource Management Liaison Officer, Jessica Marsh hopes the photo competition will remind landholders, environmental staff, volunteers and members of the public about the widespread presence of pests and the importance of keeping a record of pest animal sightings and damage. “I hope the competition encourages people to get out there and see what is happening in their environment and to get creative about how they can record and report on pest animals in their area”

Photos provide strong visual evidence of pest animal impact and if used continuously, can help land managers and government agencies to monitor changes across the landscape. There are great prizes up for grabs so make sure you visit www.invasiveanimals.com/feral-photos or contact Jessica for an entry pack jessica.marsh@industry.nsw.gov.au